



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507  
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

# Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 26, 2005  
Week Ending: September 25, 2005  
CWP WA-CW3905

## Moisture Needed for Crops, Rangeland, and Water Supplies Aphid Problems in Franklin County

### Field Crops

Dry conditions continued with farmers wondering whether to delay planting fall crops. Some farmers already started seeding and others held off in hopes some rain would come. Franklin County growers faced pea, blue, and cowpea aphid problems. Christmas tree growers began removing leader stakes from Nordman fir. Hop harvest continued in Benton County. Potato digging continued. Corn harvest for silage was underway.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 13% very poor, 26% poor, 31% fair, and 30% good. Livestock producers continued to feed supplemental hay as pastures remained short due to drought. Alfalfa hay cutting continued.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Apple and summer vegetable harvests continued. Concord grape harvest was in full swing with above normal yields reported. Sweet corn harvest came to an end. However, some damage to pumpkins, tomatoes, and other tender garden crops due to frost in Grays Harbor, Lewis, and Pacific areas were reported.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	6.6

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	13	32	28	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	22	45	33	0
Subsoil	34	43	23	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	12	51	37	0
Irrigation Water	12	13	75	0
Irrigation Water	3	3	94	0
Hay & Roughage	9	14	74	3

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2004	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	52	40	54	61
Winter Wheat Emerged	25	15	32	36
Potatoes Harvested	65	63	61	54
Corn Silage Harvested	48	33	46	42
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	72	57	58	54
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	96	90	98	99

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	1	12	73	14

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor:** A heavy frost in many parts of the county brought an end to the growing season. Sweet corn harvest continued on a very sporadic basis as processors waited for additional ear maturity in most fields. Commercial dahlia growers reported frost injury to fields. The floricultural component of the Grays Harbor agricultural industry will be highlighted in this year's Harvest Celebration on Saturday, October 1.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Frost occurred throughout the week with the hardest frosts on September 24. Pumpkins, tomatoes, and other tender garden crops were blackened. There were no reports of damage to the sweet corn crop which was being harvested.

**Mason:** The weather was in the lower 60's and mid-70's during the day and upper 30's and lower 40's at night. The first light frost was received on Thursday morning. Rain is needed. Cattle were fed corn stalks and year-old orchard grass hay. Livestock will be put on fall pastures when rain is received. Producers were planning to lime their fields. Manure will be spread on fields before the rains set in.

**Pierce:** There was no possibility of getting a second cutting of hay in south Pierce County. Hay for the winter will be in short supply. Fuel costs are expected to drive the cost of eastern Washington hay so high that most cattle and horse farmers will not survive. The value of cattle will decrease

rapidly as winter sets in and feed becomes a real problem.

**Pierce/South King:** The weather remained mild and favorable for crops. There were no unusual situations to report or crop damage due to a weather event.

**Thurston:** Most areas of the county received a light frost during the week as evening temperatures dipped below 32 degrees. Christmas tree growers began removing leader stakes from Nordman fir. Livestock producers continued to feed supplemental hay as pastures remained completely brown. Blueberry growers completed mowing cover crops in harvested fields. Turfgrass growers were busy netting newly planted fields. All agricultural producers were complaining about the high fuel prices.

**Thurston (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The area was dry as a bone. There has been no grass growth for two months. Cattle were on hay only, eating the reed canary bales.

**Whatcom:** Rain was received during the week. Temperatures were in the 60's during the day and temperatures dropped to the high 30's and lower 40's at night. Potato harvest continued. Corn silage harvest got underway.

## Central

**Benton:** Soil moisture remained extremely low. Grape, apple, potato, and summer vegetable harvests continued.

**Chelan:** Winter pear harvest continued. Harvest labor was short but not critical. Many growers would hire more pickers if they were available. Golden Delicious apple harvest was nearly complete. All apple harvests were going at full speed and will continue until early November. The weather has been perfect for fruit development and harvest.

**Chelan/Douglas:** Apple and pear harvest continued. Weather conditions have been normal for this time of year, with warm days and cool nights. Winter wheat was behind normal maturity. Livestock were being moved into fall pastures. Range conditions were average. Emergency livestock water practices were being utilized by many producers, as normal water in fall pastures was not present in lakes and springs.

**Franklin:** The last cut (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>) for alfalfa continued. Cooler temperatures were causing longer drying times. Pea aphids, blue aphids, and cowpea aphids were showing up in great numbers. Growers will need to monitor regrowth for aphid populations.

**Franklin (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The temperatures were cooler than normal, but otherwise the weather was clear and sunny during the week. Conditions in the dryland sector of the county were extremely dry and most if not all operators were waiting to seed because of these conditions. The county was sitting at 62 percent of normal precipitation for the year. The precipitation for the summer months was 22 percent of normal and to date for September it was 9 percent of normal.

Dryland fall grazing was very tough and the outlook for next spring was not looking good. Alfalfa hay harvest continued along with processor carrots and potatoes. There appears to be a good apple crop this year with harvest for early varieties already beginning. Concord grape harvest was in full swing and it also appears to be a good crop.

**Grant:** The fourth cutting of alfalfa was 60 percent complete.

**Grant (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Potato harvest was underway. Apple harvest continues. Alfalfa and timothy hay harvests wound down. Sweet corn harvest was also coming to an end. Bean harvest was in full swing. Dry land wheat seeding for next year has ended.

**Kittitas:** The 2005 crop season was winding down. The temperatures were cool at night and mid-70's during the day.

**Klickitat:** Continued dry conditions had farmers wondering whether to plant fall crops. Some have, and wheat was emerging. However, without rain soon the new crops will die. Pastures were critically short and many ranchers have already began feeding livestock.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from normal to 5 degrees below normal, with no precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

## Eastern

**Asotin/Garfield:** The weather remained dry throughout the week. Moisture was needed for crops, rangeland, and water supplies.

**Ferry:** Fall weather has been dry with frosts in the mid-20's. Late spring rains and corresponding summer grass growth left adequate grass on higher rangelands. Pine and fir trees showed signs of increased drought stress with increased beetle damage.

**Garfield:** Conditions were still too dry except in the higher precipitation zones. Fieldwork was underway where possible.

**Lincoln:** Winter wheat seeding was winding down.

**Pend Oreille:** All crops were in as freezing weather began. Livestock were active in the cool weather. Most area ranchers were supplementing the pasture with baled hay, attempting to fatten livestock for winter. Preparations to move yearling stock, both lambs and calves, to stockyards was in full swing. Some cattle ranchers were busy with early new calves (a few with twins) and will continue until mid-February. Soil preparation for winter was underway.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** It was another week of dry weather with average to above normal temperatures during the day and some frost during a couple of nights. Southern Spokane

County had temperatures in the low 20's on two different mornings. Farmers began seeding and hoping that rain will come soon. Currently there is no moisture in the seeding zone. Producers were waiting for rain so they could do some fall work. Fuel prices have many hoping prices will come down.

**Stevens:** Fall cultivation resulted in significant dust clouds as rain was lacking and humidity was low.

**Stevens (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Fall-like weather continued with morning temperatures in the 30's and afternoon highs in the mid-70's. Irrigated hay producers finished up with the third cutting, while cattle producers began gathering calves to send to market. Grain growers were seeding winter wheat.

**Walla Walla:** Serious drought conditions were seen throughout the county. Some producers were seeding winter wheat crops, but many were holding off in hopes that rain would come. Pastures dried up, and many ranchers were already beginning to feed their cattle.

**Whitman:** Conditions remained dry, but winter wheat seeding progressed across the county. Some producers reported good moisture conditions despite the lack of rain. Others in the western areas of the county were very concerned about the need for rain. Tillage operations and burning have been ongoing.

# Weekly Weather Statistics

September 26, 2005

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	35	65	52	-5	19	-26	0	-4	0.00	-0.49	0	0.28	-1.26	18	3
Everett	44	68	55	-2	40	-8	0	-6	0.00	-0.55	0	0.89	-0.86	51	4
Hoquiam	38	66	53	-7	22	-43	0	-14	0.04	-0.83	1	0.42	-2.15	16	3
Kelso	34	75	56	-4	41	-23	0	-14	0.00	-0.59	0	0.84	-1.08	44	2
Olympia	31	74	52	-5	18	-28	0	-4	0.00	-0.58	0	0.50	-1.31	28	3
Sea-Tac	42	70	57	-3	50	-14	1	-10	0.00	-0.49	0	0.68	-0.85	44	5
Shelton	30	73	53	-6	23	-37	1	-11	0.00	-0.72	0	1.06	-1.06	50	4
Tacoma	34	72	53	-6	21	-36	0	-7	0.00	-0.49	0	0.24	-1.34	15	2
Vancouver	37	75	57	-3	50	-10	0	-12	0.00	-0.49	0	0.05	-1.59	3	3
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	33	77	57	2	52	3	5	-6	0.00	-0.10	0	0.01	-0.43	2	1
Stampede Pass	38	65	49	2	6	-8	0	0	0.00	-0.88	0	0.91	-1.83	33	4
Wenatchee	43	78	60	-1	74	-4	11	-14	0.00	-0.07	0	0.07	-0.28	20	1
Yakima AP	33	79	55	-4	36	-27	0	-17	0.00	-0.07	0	0.08	-0.27	23	1
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	33	74	54	-2	26	-15	0	-7	0.00	-0.26	0	0.16	-0.82	16	2
Deer Park	25	75	51	-6	11	-40	0	-13	0.00	-0.21	0	0.27	-0.48	36	3
Spokane AP	34	74	55	-3	34	-17	1	-12	0.00	-0.14	0	0.10	-0.53	16	2
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	41	79	61	-2	77	-7	10	-19	0.00	-0.08	0	0.10	-0.21	32	2
Moses Lake	36	79	58	-5	57	-27	4	-25	0.00	-0.08	0	0.00	-0.31	0	0
Quincy	42	76	59	0	66	-3	5	-15	0.00	-0.07	0	0.01	-0.37	3	1
Ritzville	35	75	54	-4	32	-24	0	-15	0.00	-0.14	0	0.20	-0.26	43	3
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	40	83	63	-4	89	-18	20	-24	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.30	0	0
Pasco	35	83	58	-5	54	-30	3	-26	0.00	-0.07	0	0.02	-0.29	6	1
Pullman	27	75	52	-5	20	-29	0	-12	0.00	-0.26	0	0.00	-0.80	0	0
Whitman Miss.	32	82	54	-5	31	-34	0	-18	0.00	-0.17	0	0.09	-0.44	17	3
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	30	73	53	-6	26	-32	0	-15	0.00	-0.28	0	0.33	-0.67	33	2
Lewiston ID	42	83	61	-1	76	-7	15	-16	0.00	-0.14	0	0.04	-0.60	6	1

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2005

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures Unavailable in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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